

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1                   1. A method for controlling conference room devices connected to  
 2 a first computer, the method comprising:  
 3                   receiving status information from the conference room devices  
 4 connected to the first computer;  
 5                   displaying a device menu of available devices for a particular  
 6 conference room;  
 7                   displaying a control menu to control at least one of the available  
 8 devices; and  
 9                   transmitting commands to a selected one of the available devices to  
 10 control the selected device in response to user input.

1                   2. The method of claim 1 wherein the devices include at least one of  
 2 an ambient lighting control, ambient temperature control, a speaker phone, audio  
 3 equipment, video equipment, window coverings, and a physical access control.

1                   3. The method of claim 1 wherein the device menu and the control  
 2 menu are displayed simultaneously.

1                   4. The method of claim 1 wherein the device menu and the control  
 2 menu are displayed on a common screen.

1                   5. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying a type menu  
 2 for selection of a type of conference.

1                   6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of displaying a device  
 2 menu comprises displaying a device menu of available devices corresponding to the  
 3 type of conference selected.

1                   7. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of displaying a type menu  
 2 comprises displaying buttons corresponding to at least a local meeting, an audio  
 3 conference, and a video conference.

1                   8. The method of claim 1 wherein the displaying steps comprise  
2 sending formatted menus to a second computer via a computer network wherein the  
3 second computer is remotely located from the first computer to allow a remote user  
4 to control the conference room devices.

1                   9. The method of claim 1 wherein the displaying steps comprise  
2 sending web browser compatible menus to a second computer accessible via the  
3 internet.

1                   10. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying status  
2 information for at least one of the conference room devices connected to the first  
3 computer.

1                   11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 automatically determining whether a compatible device has been added  
3 to or removed from the conference computer; and  
4 automatically updating a status of the compatible device on at least  
5 one of the menus.

1                   12. The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically sending  
2 a message to technical support in response to a corresponding device status.

1                   13. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of sending comprises  
2 sending an email message.

1                   14. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of sending comprises  
2 transmitting a numeric or alphanumeric message to a wireless device indicating a  
3 need for technical support.

1                   15. The method of claim 1 further comprising sending a video image  
2 of the conference room to technical support personnel.

1                   16. The method of claim 15 further comprising sending a  
2                   videoconferencing output to technical support personnel in addition to the video  
3                   image of the conference room to aid in troubleshooting any problems with the  
4                   conference room devices.

1                   17. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of displaying a control  
2                   menu comprises displaying a plurality of buttons including at least buttons  
3                   corresponding to play, pause, stop, forward, and reverse.

1                   18. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of displaying a control  
2                   menu comprises displaying a plurality of buttons including at least buttons  
3                   corresponding to pan, tilt, and zoom.

1                   19. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting comprises  
2                   wirelessly transmitting commands from the first computer to the conference room  
3                   devices.

1                   20. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting comprises  
2                   transmitting commands from the first computer to the conference room devices using  
3                   a two-way protocol.

1                   21. The method of claim 20 wherein the two-way protocol comprises  
2                   at least one of RS-232 and telnet.

1                   22. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of displaying comprise  
2                   displaying menus for selection by a user via pointing or touching.

1                   23. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting a video  
2                   image of the conference room.

1                   24. The method of claim 1 further comprising selectively transmitting  
2                   a video image of the conference room to a remotely located technician to facilitate  
3                   troubleshooting of at least one conference room device.

1                   25. The method of claim 24 further comprising transmitting a  
2 videoconferencing feed to a remotely located technician via the first computer to  
3 facilitate troubleshooting of at least one conference room device.

1                   26. The method of claim 1 further comprising remotely accessing a  
2 video image of the conference room via the first computer to facilitate remote  
3 troubleshooting of at least one conference room device.

1                   27. The method of claim 26 further comprising remotely accessing  
2 a videoconferencing feed to facilitate remote troubleshooting.

1                   28. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 locally previewing output from a selected one of the devices; and  
3 sending the output to a remote location in response to a send  
4 command.

1                   29. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying a summary  
2 screen having status information for all conference room devices associated with a  
3 selected conference room.

1                   30. A computer readable storage medium having stored data  
2 representing instructions executable by a computer to control conference room  
3 devices, the computer readable storage medium comprising:  
4 instructions for receiving status information from the devices;  
5 instructions for displaying a device menu of available devices for a  
6 particular conference room;  
7 instructions for displaying a control menu to control at least one of the  
8 available devices; and  
9 instructions for transmitting commands to a selected one of the  
10 available devices to control the device in response to user input.

1                   31. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 wherein the  
2 devices include at least one lighting, temperature, window coverings, audio  
equipment, video equipment, and a physical access control device.

1                   32. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 wherein the  
2 instructions for displaying comprise instructions for sending formatted menus to a  
3 second computer via a computer network wherein the second computer is remotely  
4 located from the first computer to allow a remote user to control the conference  
5 room devices.

1                   33. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 wherein the  
2 instructions for displaying comprise instructions for sending web browser compatible  
3 menus to a second computer accessible via the internet.

1                   34. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 further  
2 comprising:

3                   instructions for automatically determining whether a compatible  
4 device has been connected or disconnected such that the compatible device is  
5 available or unavailable, respectively; and

6                   instructions for automatically updating a status of the compatible  
7 device on at least one of the menus based on the device being connected to or  
8 disconnected from the computer.

1                   35. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 further  
2 comprising instructions for automatically sending a message to technical support in  
3 response to a corresponding device status.

1                   36. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 wherein the  
2 instructions for displaying a control menu comprise instructions for displaying a  
3 plurality of buttons including at least buttons corresponding to pan, tilt, and zoom.

1                   37. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 wherein the  
2 instructions for transmitting comprise instructions for wirelessly transmitting  
3 commands to the conference room devices.

1                   38. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 wherein the  
2 instructions for transmitting comprise instructions for transmitting commands to the  
conference room devices using a two-way protocol.

1 39. The computer readable storage medium of claim 38 wherein the  
2 two-way protocol comprises at least one of RS-232 and telnet.

1 40. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 wherein the  
2 instructions for displaying comprise instructions for displaying menus via a touch  
3 panel directly connected to the computer.

1 41. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 further  
2 comprising instructions for transmitting a video image of the conference room to a  
3 remote location.

1 42. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 further  
2 comprising instructions for displaying a type menu for selection of a type of  
3 conference.

1 43. The computer readable storage medium of claim 42 wherein the  
2 instructions for displaying a device menu display a device menu of available devices  
3 corresponding to a selected type of conference.

1 44. The computer readable storage medium of claim 42 wherein the  
2 instructions for displaying a type menu comprise instructions for displaying buttons  
3 corresponding to at least a local meeting, an audio conference, and a video  
4 conference.

1 45. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 further  
2 comprising:  
3 instructions for locally previewing output from a selected one of the  
4 devices; and  
5 instructions for sending the output from the selected one of the devices  
6 to a remote location in response to a send command.

1 46. The computer readable storage medium of claim 30 further  
2 comprising instructions for displaying a summary screen having status information  
3 for all conference room devices associated with a particular conference room.

1 47. A system for controlling conference room devices, the system  
2 comprising:

3 a computer connected to a computer network accessible by at least one  
4 remotely located computer;

5 a device connected to the computer for displaying menus and  
6 receiving input from users in the conference room;

7 a camera directly connected to the computer, the camera receiving  
8 commands from the computer including at least zoom, tilt, and pan commands, and  
9 sending status information to the computer including at least on and off;

10 a telephone in communication with the computer for dialing telephone  
11 numbers and providing audio communication between the conference room and a  
12 remote location;

13 wherein the computer generates commands to display menus and  
14 receive commands via the touch panel including a device menu showing available  
15 devices and corresponding control menus.

1 48. A system for remotely accessing conference room devices, the  
2 system comprising:

3 a computer having a first interface for connecting the conference room  
4 devices and a second interface for remotely accessing the computer, wherein the  
5 computer transmits information via the second interface indicative of available  
6 conference room devices connected to the first interface for a selected conference  
7 room.

1 49. The system of claim 48 wherein the computer receives status  
2 information from at least one conference room device via the first interface and  
3 transmits status information for the at least one conference room device via the  
4 second interface.

1 50. The system of claim 48 wherein the computer transmits  
2 commands via the first interface to control at least one conference room device.

1           51. The system of claim 48 wherein the computer receives a  
2 command from a second computer via the second interface and transmits a  
3 corresponding command via the first interface to control at least one conference  
4 room device.

1           52. The system of claim 48 wherein the conference room devices  
2 include a videoconferencing camera, a videoconferencing monitor, and a conference  
3 room camera connected to the computer via the first interface, wherein the computer  
4 selectively transmits images from the conference room camera, which is remotely  
5 controllable via the second interface, to facilitate remote troubleshooting of the  
6 videoconferencing camera and/or monitor by a technician.

1           53. The system of claim 52 wherein the computer selectively  
2 transmits images from the videoconferencing camera via the second interface to a  
3 remotely located technician to facilitate troubleshooting of the videoconferencing  
4 camera and/or monitor.

1           54. A method for controlling conference room devices associated  
2 with a conference room, the conference room devices connected to a first computer,  
3 the method comprising:

4           receiving a scheduling request for the conference room including a  
5 date and time; and

6           automatically generating a request to control at least one of the  
7 conference room devices via the first computer based on the scheduled date and time.

1           55. The method of claim 54 wherein the conference room devices  
2 include a physical access control device and wherein the step of automatically  
3 generating a request comprises automatically generating a request to control the  
4 physical access control device to allow access to the conference room based on the  
5 scheduled date and time.



1                   56. The method of claim 54 wherein the scheduling request includes  
2 a request for use of video and/or audio conferencing devices, the method further  
3 comprising:

4                   automatically requesting connections from a bridge provider based on  
5 the date and time.

1                   57. The method of claim 54 wherein the scheduling request identifies  
2 at least one conference room device, the method further comprising:

3                   . automatically determining status of the at least one conference room  
4 device; and

5                   automatically contacting technical support if the status of the at least  
6 one conference room device indicates a problem.

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